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## **Working People Unite for Justice**

**WHEREAS:** The Supreme Court of the United States holds enormous importance to working men and women not only in the administration of justice but in the definition of whether the laws passed by Congress and the States are in fact just and constitutional; and

**WHEREAS:** The US Supreme Court has issued decisions in the last two decades on narrow 5-4 margins that struck down voting rights and protections, limited workers rights and workplace protections, limited the rights of workers to organize, supported intrusions into personal privacy, promoted the dominance of the elite money and power class in our electoral life, and work against the economic social and political interests of working and retired women and men; and

**WHEREAS:** The refusal by Republican senators to do their constitutional duty to hold hearings and issue its vote of advise and consent on a nominee has left the Supreme Court unable to definitively decide monumental cases involving affirmative action, abortion, immigration and labor rights. Without a ninth justice, the court can only uphold a lower court ruling for the time being, if it makes a 4-4 split decision. We need a ninth justice to make decisions establishing the rule of law on issues of fundamental importance to the American people; and

**WHEREAS:** This obstructionism is not limited to the U.S. Supreme Court, but extends to nominees throughout the federal judicial system. In January of 2015, there were 12 pending judicial nominees to federal courts that were awaiting consideration by the U.S. Senate; and by January of 2016, that number had grown to 54 nominees who were being denied a hearing. Further, the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts has stated that this obstruction has resulted in 30 judicial emergencies, defined as vacancies longer than 18 months or in jurisdictions with excessive filings – up from 12 such emergency situations in January of 2015. These judicial emergencies mean that ordinary Americans are being denied their day in court due to the backlog of cases; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Ohio AFL-CIO will work with partners and allies to mobilize our communities to educate our members and the public about Supreme Court's rightward tilt and how the Court is relinquishing its traditional role as guardian of our values and the Constitution in favor of a pro-corporate agenda that disregards the interests of ordinary citizens.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Ohio AFL-CIO, its affiliated local unions, constituency groups and allied organizations affirm the need to elect a President of the United States that will appoint and a US Senator from Ohio that will advise and consent to Justices to the Supreme Court, and the Federal bench, who will bring greater balance to our judicial system.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** That the Ohio AFL-CIO Labor 2016 and its one-to-one program of workplace, home door step, and live person phone conversations, is the means to educate our members and the general public on the imbalance in the federal courts and their ability to vote for Hillary Clinton and Ted Strickland to bring balance back to our justice system.

**Submitted by: AFSCME/ Ohio Civil Service Employees Association**